

MINUTES

CITY OF AUBURN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

May 17, 2005 @ 8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Willick Richardson; Clark; Nesbitt; Merz
MEMBERS ABSENT:
OTHERS PRESENT: (See attached list)

1. **Public Comment** – O.C. Taylor, Borland Avenue resident expressed his disappointment re the lack of progress/attention to the stop light At Borland & 49. Taylor had previously addressed the committee as to the danger at this intersection, as the light is not timed properly for those making a left-hand turn from Borland onto Lincoln. Clark responded that we do have a design review underway, and an engineering firm has been selected to study this intersection and address the problem(s) (light sequencing, additional lane, etc), as we realize it is a valid safety issue and we are addressing its correction. Also, per Taylor, Borland Avenue is becoming a junkyard w/abandoned extra vehicles. Code Enforcement Officer will address the issue of the vehicles.

Joe Nicosia spoke with Sonny Harris in the past re street cleaning on his street, suggesting that maybe they could pick a different day because Thursday is also trash pick-up day. Harris replied that this situation is not unique to Nicosia's neighborhood, as it is impossible to schedule around trash pick-up entirely. (Public works issue; not traffic committee.)

Gary Capps, DBA, addressed the committee re parking lot signs & directional signage, stating many are faded, small, and confusing. He feels we need larger, more "shopper friendly" signs. Multiple signs in lots are also confusing; need to re-address/change. Universal-type signs at entrances to lots would be appreciated (i.e., large letter "P" w/arrows). Capps left a package w/photos for the committee to peruse.

2. **Minutes:** Approval of April minutes; M/S Merz/Clark; no discussion; unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS:

3. **Request for Directional Arrow on Sutton Place – Removal of Barricade Auburn Highlands**
Chairperson Willick gave overview/history of this request for directional signage, stating the layout of the street is confusing at times, thus directional signing was requested. From that discussion the barricade issue was discussed, resulting in the committee voting to consider removal of the barricade. The first step then was to notify area residents of the committee's intent, asking for input from surrounding neighbors; to which we received a large response. A follow-up meeting of the Traffic Committee then discusses the public's input, and makes recommendation to City Council for final action, if any, as this committee serves in an advisory capacity for the Council.

Originally dubbed the "John Deeter" subdivision, this area became known as "Auburn Highlands". The project was begun in January of 1973, with several amendments to the map up to September, 1974; minutes do not clearly address the issue, but former Planning Director, Rod Haack, remembers that this plan originally showed an open, unbarricaded street. Residents of the neighboring Rancho Circle area were concerned with issues of additional traffic etc., brought on by new development, thus the street was closed as a result. The committee was reminded that this is a public street, publicly maintained, and originally designed to be open. Traffic & safety issues have closed it since '74. People now fear it will become a shortcut drive-thru, with more speeding vehicles, and more crime. The Katharine Way barricade was opened in 1994, and thus far, none of those same concerns expressed by its residents have come to fruition. The issue of safety vehicle access alone makes for a good reason to have it open, as it could prove critical in the event of emergency. Today it would be illegal to close off access to the public neighborhood.

In all Willick received 7 phone calls against; a total of 8 e-mails, w/7 against; and a petition signed by 22+, also against. The parking design of the development is the only thing that would support the barricade, as backing into the narrow street could be creating a hazard for drivers. However, these are the same issues today as originally, thus Willick's opinion/inclination is to leave the barricade.

Committee opinions:

- Nesbitt: Concurs with Chief Willick.
- Merz: Lived on Rancho Circle, and feels the barricade served as a nice separation. If people want to leave it, leave it. Maybe the committee could talk about other methods of correction as formerly discussed?
- Clark: Feels it makes sense to have it open from a safety point. He understands people's wish for a closed cul-de-sac, but from a traffic engineering/safety standpoint, Clark feels it should be open. While he can see the design flaw for parking, he is adamantly opposed to barricades across public streets, stating we need as many safety accesses as possible, and the barricade limits access in the event of emergency. Bottom line in this situation, however, is that we can get through the gate, so if the people want it left there, leave it.
- Nesbitt: Hopes we have learned from this, and will not create such a problem in the future.
- Richardson: Questioned whether the original request for directional arrows/signage has been withdrawn? If yes, then he recommends this item be pulled from the agenda.

Citizen opinions:

- Don Bennett, 130 Rancho Circle: Questioned why the City ever approved the project in the first place, stating it wouldn't be allowed today.
- John Price, 427 Sutton; Stated this is not a barricade, it is a gate, and in extreme danger, the gate can be opened. Willick responded that it only takes a few seconds to create a huge panic, which is what motivated the committee to consider taking the barricade down in the first place, as a SAFETY ISSUE ONLY.
- Joe Nicosia, 119 Rancho Circle: Has never had any problems in the entire time he's lived there.
- Bret McNulty, 441 Sutton Place: Feels the concerns are valid; public safety & speeding are also the concerns of the residents. He thanks the committee for their consideration of the issue.

The audience was unanimous in their opinion to leave the gate/barricade. Willick reminded residents that this is not a true "break away" barrier, stating we will not sacrifice the City's equipment/vehicles to break down the gate, but rather would expect to use bolt cutters and/or keys.

COMMITTEE ACTION: M/S Nesbitt/Merz to leave barricade & take no action: Unanimous.

4. *Request to Relocate Yellow Loading Zone on Cherry Avenue & Lincoln Way*

Chief Willick met with property owner, Viola Wrigley re the request to relocate, as well as with representatives from the DBA, who requested a continuance of this item to allow a field trip to visit the site prior to taking action. Chief Willick & PW Director Clark will visit site visit & report back to committee. DBA will take care of notifying surrounding business owners. Unanimous by committee.

5. *Request for 3-Way Stop at Lubeck & Borland*

Requestor Hamilton was not present at today's meeting. Chairman Willick received a phone call from Janice Forbes, opposing this request; David Odom wrote a letter in opposition. Those present expressed the following:

- ❖ O.C. Taylor, 173 Borland, is in favor of the request because he feels it is a safety issue.
- ❖ Patricia Morgan, 155 Lubeck, does not see this as a big traffic issue; opposes the sign, in fact stating she is "very much against".
- ❖ Glenn & Ruby Payne, 105 Marvin Way, are against the request, stating they feel the shrubbery could be trimmed to alleviate site distance restriction. Other than that, it really only seems to be a problem when PHS students are traversing.

Generally speaking, it is felt that the installation of an additional stop sign would primarily serve as a speed calming device. Another way to accomplish that end might be to extend the red zone further down Lubeck.

COMMITTEE ACTION: M/S Richardson/Nesbitt to paint the curb red extending to Gossonia.; unanimous.

6. *Request for Yellow Zone in Front of Mailboxes @ 516 Sawka Drive*

The committee agreed that a white, 3-minute zone would be more ideal than a yellow loading zone. M/S COMMITTEE ACTION:Nesbitt/Merz; unanimous.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7. *Request for Yield Sign Relocation and/or Street Markings on Maple Street @ Bridge*

As Clark has been out of town and unable to address this issue, a continuance was requested and granted for this item.

8. *Request for 3-Way Stop @ Intersection of Commercial/Lincoln Way/Maple Street*

As Clark has been out of town and unable to address this issue, a continuance was requested and granted for this item.

9. *Request for Red Curb Auburn Folsom Road, Racetrack to Pacific*

Status: No paint yet. This is a real safety issue, and we need to get it painted.

10. *Request 1-Way/No Parking on Walker Drive – Field Trip*

Postponed until next month at the request of petitioner Ronda Castle, 153 Stephen Avenue, Auburn.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 21, 2005 @ 8:30 A.M.